

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraphs 008-011 on pages 3-4 as follows:

[008] In one aspect, a method for providing a verifiable delivery payment coding comprises ~~providing~~ transmitting verification data configured to be included in a delivery payment coding, receiving an item in an item delivery system, the item comprising the delivery payment coding including the verification data, and verifying the authenticity of the delivery payment coding using the verification data included in the delivery payment coding.

[009] In another aspect, a system for providing a verifiable delivery payment coding comprises a component for ~~providing~~ transmitting verification data configured to be included in a delivery payment coding, a component for receiving an item in an item delivery system, the item comprising the delivery payment coding including the verification data, and a component for verifying the authenticity of the delivery payment coding using the verification data included in the delivery payment coding.

[010] In yet another aspect, a computer-readable medium on which is stored a set of instructions for ~~providing~~ transmitting a verifiable delivery payment coding, which when executed perform stages comprising ~~providing~~ transmitting verification data configured to be included in a delivery payment coding, receiving an item in an item delivery system, the item comprising the delivery payment coding including the verification data, and verifying the authenticity of the delivery payment coding using the verification data included in the delivery payment coding.

[011] In yet another aspect, a system for providing a verifiable delivery payment coding comprises a means for ~~providing~~ transmitting verification data configured to be

included in a delivery payment coding, a means for receiving an item in an item delivery system, the item comprising the delivery payment coding including the verification data, and a means for verifying the authenticity of the delivery payment coding using the verification data included in the delivery payment coding.

Please replace paragraph 020 on pages 5-6 as follows:

[020] Consistent with an embodiment of the present invention, a system for providing a verifiable delivery payment coding may comprise a component for ~~providing~~ transmitting verification data configured to be included in a delivery payment coding, a component for receiving an item in an item delivery system, the item comprising the delivery payment coding including the verification data, and a component for verifying the authenticity of the delivery payment coding using the verification data included in the delivery payment coding. In addition, the system may include a component for receiving a request for the verification data, a component for receiving a payment for delivery of the item, a component for delivering the item to a recipient, and a component for confirming the item delivery using the verification data from the delivery payment coding.

Please replace paragraph 024 on page 7 as follows:

[024] Item 110 may comprise at least one of a mailpiece, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package, a United States Postal Service Global Express Mail Package, or a United States Postal

Service Global Express Guarantee Package. Moreover, item delivery system 130 may comprise elements of the United States Postal Service.

Please replace the abstract on page 47 as follows:

PROVIDING A VERIFIABLE DELIVERY PAYMENT CODING

Abstract of the Disclosure

Providing a verifiable delivery payment coding comprises ~~providing~~ transmitting verification data configured to be included in a delivery payment coding. Next, providing the verifiable delivery payment coding comprises receiving an item in an item delivery system, the item comprising the delivery payment coding including the verification data. In addition, providing the verifiable delivery payment coding comprises verifying the authenticity of the delivery payment coding using the verification data included in the delivery payment coding.